



THE PRAXIS SERIES: MARYLAND TEACHER CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENTS

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What are the assessments?

The Praxis Series area assessments for teacher candidates are administered by a company called Educational Testing Service (ETS). The number of assessments required depends on the content area in which a candidate will teach. Praxis I assesses basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills and is required for all candidates. Praxis II assesses subject matter and pedagogy skills in content areas. In content areas without an assessment, the teacher candidates only need to pass Praxis I. The State Board of Education approved Praxis qualifying scores in February 1999 and plans to review Maryland candidate performance in two years to consider raising the qualifying scores.

Who takes these assessments?

Any teacher candidate applying for an initial teacher certificate in Maryland must pass the appropriate Praxis assessments. These assessments replace the National Teachers Examination (NTE) previously required by MSDE.

What is the schedule for transition from the NTE to the Praxis Series?

- Praxis I and II qualifying scores are now being accepted from certification candidates.
- Qualifying scores from NTE examinations taken prior to June 30, 2000 will be accepted from certification candidates.

At what point do teacher candidates take the assessments?

Many teacher preparation programs require that students take the Praxis I as an entrance requirement, generally at the end of the sophomore year. Praxis II is usually taken near the end of course work and student teaching. Candidates from states that do not require these assessments must take them to become certified in Maryland. Out-of-state candidates who have already taken the exams must meet Maryland's qualifying scores.

Where and when can candidates take the assessments?

ETS administers the assessments six Saturdays per year, usually in September, October, December, February, March, and May, at 15 test sites in Maryland located within two- and four-year institutions of higher education. This assessment schedule is also offered in all 50 states and in a number of foreign countries. Test sites and dates are listed in ETS's free annual publication, the *Registration Bulletin* or on the website at www.teachingandlearning.org.

How much do the assessments cost?

Praxis I: Candidates can take Praxis I by pencil and paper or by computer. The paper version of Praxis I, called the PreProfessional Skills Test (PPST), costs \$25 per section plus a \$35 registration fee per test date. This version is given six times per year at the 15 Maryland test sites. The computer version of Praxis I, called the Computer Based Test (CBT), is given year-round by appointment at select Sylvan Learning Centers and costs \$80 for one section, \$105 for two, and \$130 for three sections. In either version of the Praxis I, candidates may take all of the test sections at one sitting or at several separate sessions.

Praxis II: The cost for Praxis II varies depending on the number of tests, ranging from one to three, required for each subject area, and on the type of test items. For example, a one-hour multiple choice subject assessment is \$55, while the one-hour constructed-response subject assessment is \$70. The total cost for Praxis II depends on your content area and the number of requested tests. Check the ETS website.

Fees are subject to change without notice. Contact ETS for a current fee schedule.

What type of financial assistance is available for students taking the Praxis?

If students are receiving financial aid and are enrolled in undergraduate or graduate school, they may qualify for a fee waiver covering the registration fee and one test fee. To be considered for a waiver, students must submit a completed Fee Waiver Request Form which must be received by ETS by the appropriate deadline, and they must register for tests required by an authorized score recipient such as a state department of education or a university. This form and further information are available in the ETS *Registration Bulletin*. Students holding doctorate or master's degrees cannot qualify for the waiver.

Where do I get more information?

Forms and additional information on registration procedures, fees and testing are included in the annual *Registration Bulletin* available at teacher education offices, test centers, or from ETS. Non-standard testing accommodations are available for test takers with disabilities who meet ETS requirements. Contact ETS by mail at The Praxis Series, Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 6051, Princeton, NJ 08541-6051, by phone at 609-771-7395 or by e-mail at www.teachingandlearning.org.

To obtain more information about becoming a teacher in Maryland, contact the MSDE, Division of Certification and Accreditation at 410-767-0412 or check our website at www.msde.state.md.us/certification/index.html.